



UWS Academic Portal

Making graduate attributes tangible through international partnership

Munro, Jane

Published: 18/11/2016

Document Version

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

[Link to publication on the UWS Academic Portal](#)

Citation for published version (APA):

Munro, J. (2016). *Making graduate attributes tangible through international partnership: a case study*. Poster session presented at Enhancing Nursing through Educational Research (ENTER) Conference 2016.

General rights

Copyright and moral rights for the publications made accessible in the UWS Academic Portal are retained by the authors and/or other copyright owners and it is a condition of accessing publications that users recognise and abide by the legal requirements associated with these rights.

Take down policy

If you believe that this document breaches copyright please contact pure@uws.ac.uk providing details, and we will remove access to the work immediately and investigate your claim.



Making Graduate Attributes Tangible Through International Partnership

A Case Study

Munro J, North D, Forrester A, Dearie G, Fleck H, Kelly M, De Guelmi F, University of the West of Scotland.

Introduction

A Memorandum of Understanding between the University of the West of Scotland and University of South China enabled a group of 10 Business Studies and Nursing undergraduate students from UWS to attend a Summer School in Hunan Province, China. Student experiences of cooperating as a team, engaging with industry professionals and adapting to cultural norms and traditions are analysed in terms of acquiring and developing graduate attributes in preparation for the domestic and global employment market.

Aim

To identify the value of international student partnership on developing graduate attributes and preparedness for employability and professional & personal development.

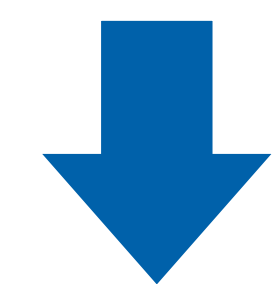
What Are Graduate Attributes?

Debate exists around an exact definition of however, a broad definition is: 'the skills, knowledge and abilities of university graduates, beyond disciplinary knowledge, which are applicable to a range of contexts' [1] and it is argued that:

“such attributes are what makes higher education distinct from other forms or 'levels' of learning.”



Graduate Attributes



Research Method

The students were invited to complete an online semi-structured qualitative questionnaire to provide feedback on how their travel experience impacted on the specific graduate attributes, their professional practice, employability and personal development. 6 students responded (60% response rate).

60% response rate (6)	Number	Age Range	Gender	Specialism	Were Familiar with “Graduate Attributes”
NURSING	3	21-24	3 Female	2 Adult Nursing 1 Mental Health Nurse	3
IT / BUSINESS STUDIES	3	21 - 24	2 Female 1 Male	3 Business Technology	2

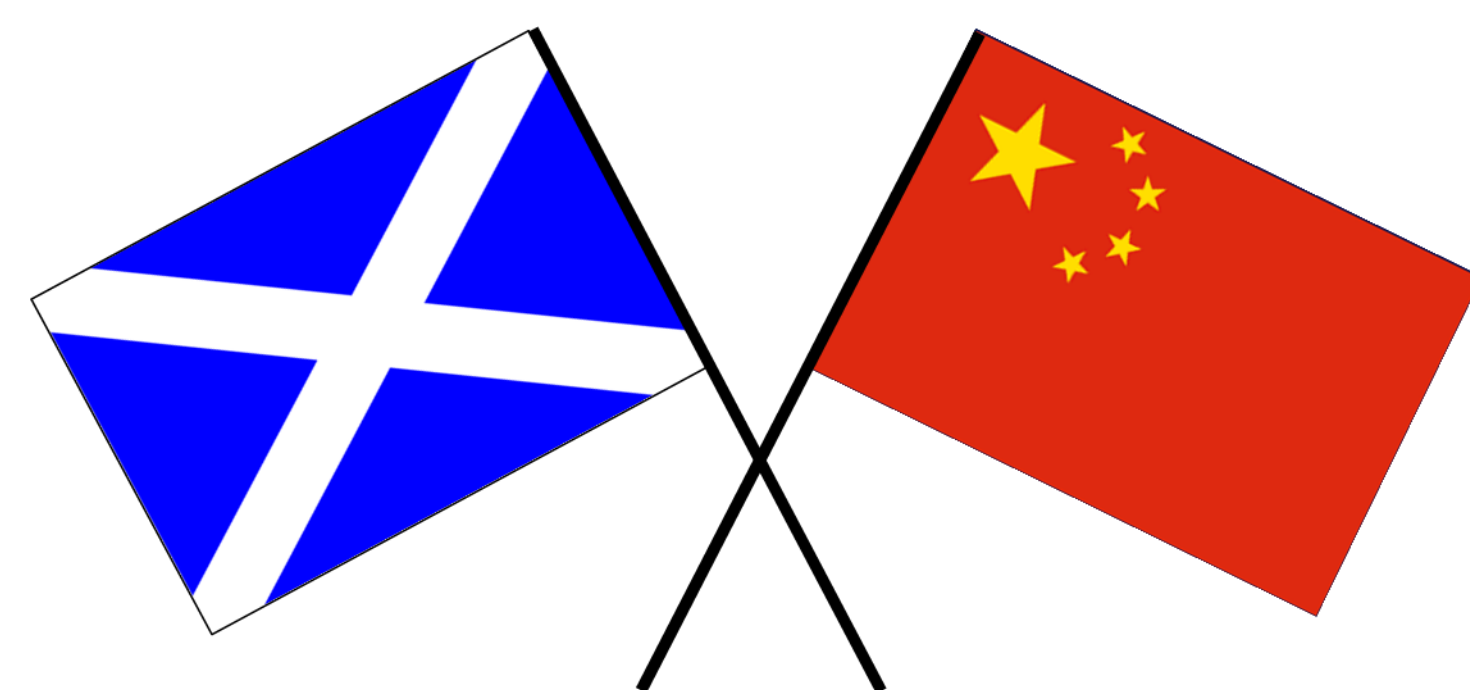
The responses were read and important moments or events described identified and coded. Thematic analysis was then used [2] to examine the themes emerging across the graduate attributes.



Results

Students developed several important skills necessary for professional and personal development

- Acquired the ability to apply knowledge and develop skills in new and changing environments
- Developed a wider and advanced range of communication techniques
- Adopted an enquiring mind and the ability to interrogate in order to problem solve
- Became more culturally aware and respectful of other cultures and individuals opinions and beliefs
- Experienced professional development and a positive attitude shift towards employability and international travel
- Increased in self-confidence and self-awareness
- Acquired organisation and planning skills
- Developed attributes and practical skills required to work as part of a successful team



[1] <http://www.gla.ac.uk/students/attributes/yourattributes/>
[2] Vaismoradi, M., et al. (2016). "Theme development in qualitative content analysis and thematic analysis." *Journal of Nursing Education & Practice* 6(5): 100-110.